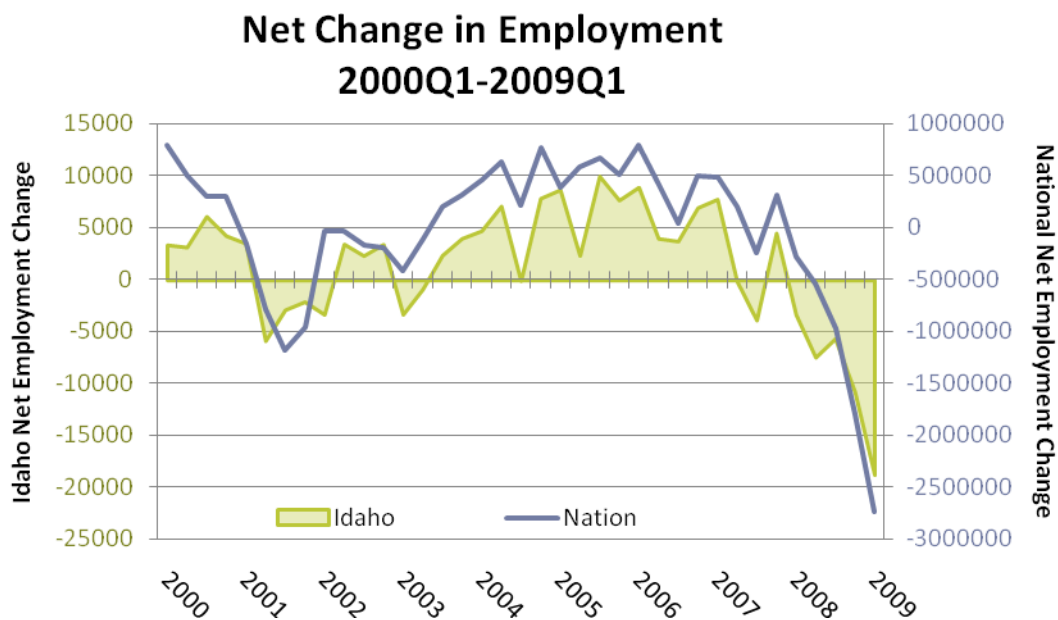


IDAHO'S PRIVATE SECTOR SUFFERS JOB LOSSES

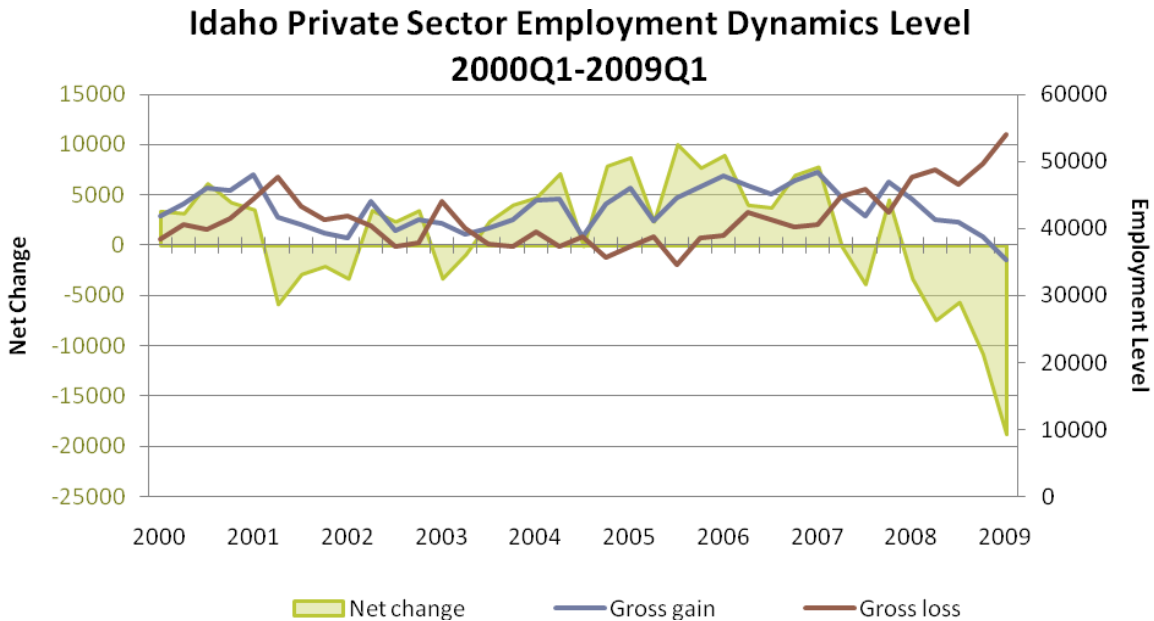
Business Employment Dynamics program releases 1st quarter 2009 data

(Reprinted from [Idaho Employment newsletter, January 2010](#))

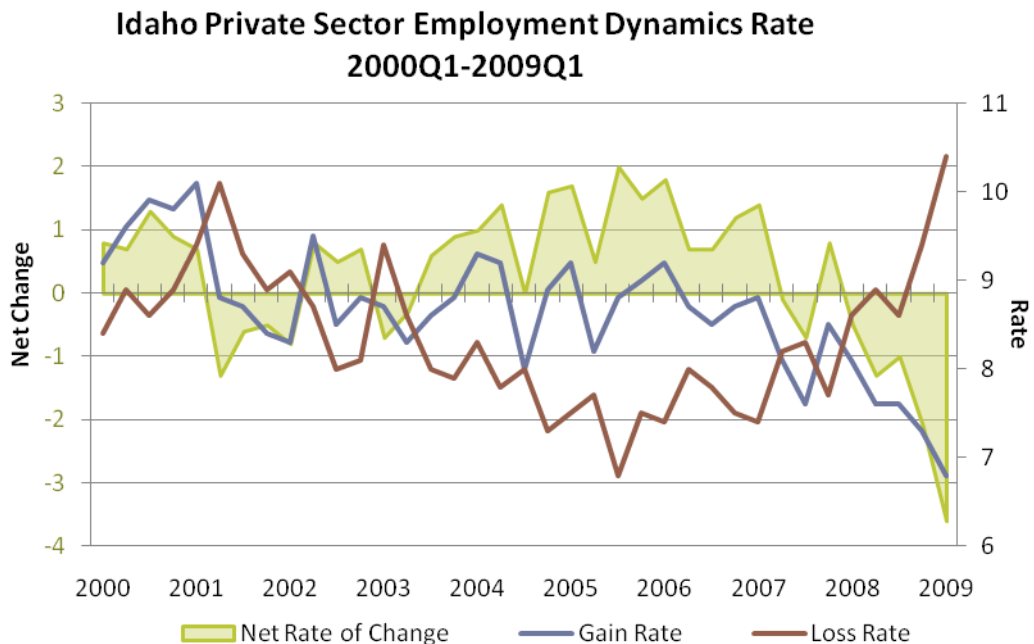
Idaho suffered a net loss of 18,746 private sector jobs during the first quarter of 2009 on a seasonally adjusted basis, evidence that the effects of the recession were still in full force. This was the fifth consecutive quarter of job loss that Idaho experienced, making it the longest streak of job losses on record, and the number of jobs lost in first quarter alone topped the 14,000 jobs lost over the four-month-long 2001 recession, according to the Business Employment Dynamics program of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



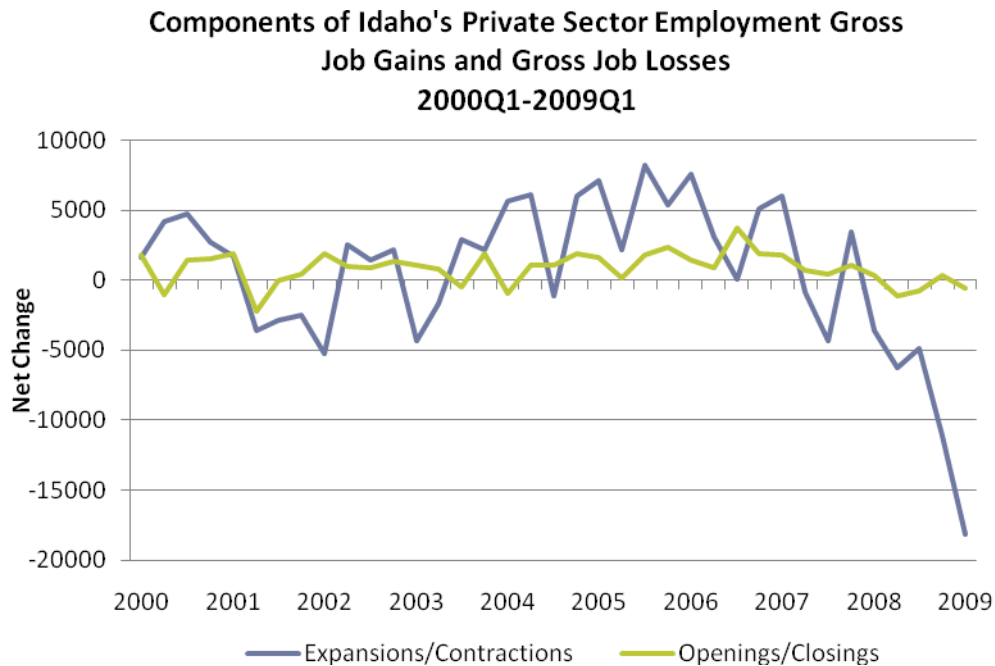
The Business Employment Dynamics program tracks information on job gains and losses from private businesses opening, expanding, closing and downsizing, providing another tool for analyzing the business cycle. From January to March 2009, Idaho's opening and expanding businesses added just under 35,300 jobs while those closing or downsizing cut over 54,000. The net loss of more than 18,700 jobs was the largest recorded quarterly job loss, as well as the largest quarterly change in either direction, since the statistical series began in 1992.



Although the National Bureau of Economic Research marks the recession's start in December 2007, Idaho's economy began to slow during the second quarter of 2007. In the seven quarters that followed, Idaho lost jobs in all but the fourth quarter of 2007, and in spite of that quarter's slight gain, the net number of jobs lost since the downward trend began exceeded 45,000 by the end of March 2009.



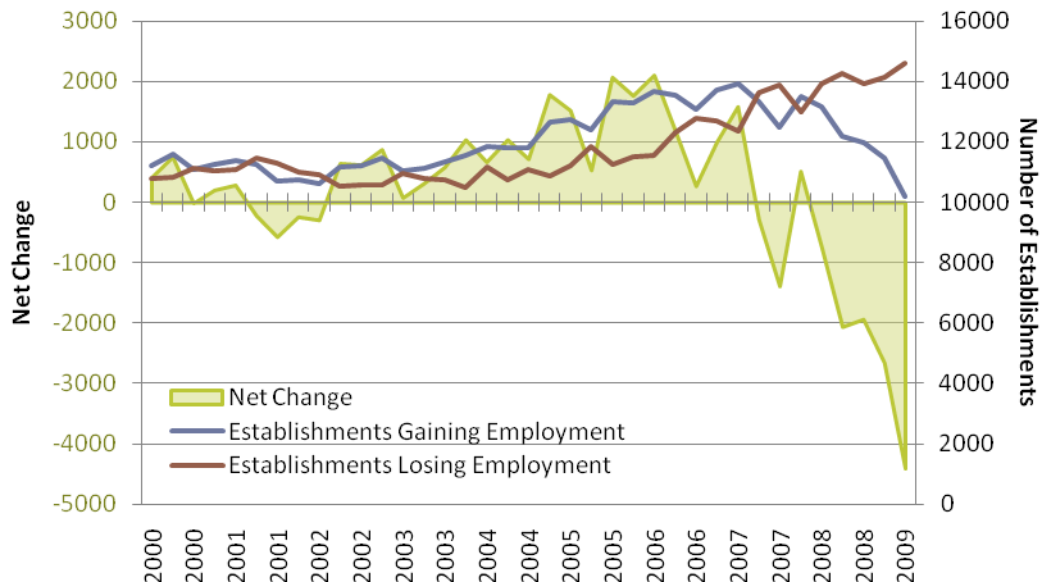
The rate of job gains reached an all-time low in the first quarter of 2009 at just 6.8 percent — lower even than the fourth quarter 2008 rate of 7.3 — and that was more than offset by a 10.4 percent decline in jobs from businesses downsizing or outright closing. That was up from the 9.4 percent rate of the fourth quarter, and the highest rate of job loss seen in Idaho since either the recession or the data series began.



Contracting businesses shed over 18,000 more jobs than expanding businesses created during the first quarter of 2009, while new businesses created 600 fewer jobs than closing businesses eliminated.

Just over 10,200 of Idaho's 50,000 businesses added jobs during the first quarter of 2009 – 7,700 through expansion and 2,500 opening for the first time. But over 14,600 others eliminated jobs – 11,200 downsized and 3,400 closed altogether.

**Number of Idaho Private Sector Establishments by Direction
of Employment Change
2000Q1-2009Q1**



U.S. DATA

Nationally, first quarter 2009 saw a net job loss of over 2.7 million stretching across all economic sectors. That exceeded the previous record loss of approximately 1.8 million jobs shed in the previous quarter by a wide margin, and brought the total net loss for the five quarters since the official beginning of the recession up over 6.3 million jobs across the country. New and expanding businesses created 5.7 million jobs, nearly 1 million fewer than in the fourth quarter of 2008. That was more than offset by the loss of nearly 8.5 million jobs as even more businesses cut back or closed altogether.

As in fourth quarter 2008, utilities and education and health services were the only two sectors to experience a net job gain in the first quarter of 2009. Education and health services posted a net increase of only 8,000 jobs across the country during first quarter, and although the sector remained the only one to gain every quarter since the beginning of the series in 1992, first quarter's gain was much less significant than the gain of 176,000 jobs seen during fourth quarter of 2008. Meanwhile, utilities gained 2,000 jobs. These small gains were overshadowed by massive losses of 667,000 jobs in manufacturing, 558,000 in professional and business services, 432,000 in construction, 273,000 in retail trade and 213,000 in leisure and hospitality. Each of these five sectors except retail lost more jobs in first quarter 2009 than in any other quarter since the beginning of the recession. Additionally, four other sectors — wholesale trade, transportation and warehousing, financial activities, and natural resources and mining — experienced unprecedented losses of over 100,000 jobs each.

Alaska remained the state with the highest gross job gain at 9.7 percent followed by Wyoming's 8.1 percent. Montana had the third highest job gain at 6.9, and Idaho followed with a posted gross job gain rate of 6.8, ranking fourth nationally. All four states' gain rates, however, were offset by posting the nation's highest job loss rates — 11.9 percent loss in Wyoming, a 10.7 percent loss rate in Alaska, 10.4 percent in Idaho and 10.3 percent in Montana.

Overall, Idaho's increasingly higher rate of job loss, lower rate of job gain and a record number of jobs lost at both the state and national levels in first quarter of 2010 indicated that it would be some months yet until the recession would begin to loosen its grip on the economy.

Data in this quarter National and State releases incorporate annual revisions to the Business Employment Dynamics series. Annual revisions are published each year with the release of first quarter data. These revisions cover the last four quarters of non-seasonally adjusted data and five years of seasonally adjusted data.

**The Business Employment Dynamics data series includes job gains and losses at private sector establishments. The data represent the change in the number of jobs over time, which is the net result of increases and decreases in employment that occur at all businesses in the economy. More information on Business Employment Dynamics series is on the Web at www.bls.gov/bdm/.*

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